

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

VOLUME 3, NO. 4

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1964

"The solitude of the wilderness sharpens a man's zest for life. It takes him down to bedrock, where a philosophy can be built. It helps him to know himself and to orient himself, so that when he returns to human society he has an equilibrium that is not found by confining one's life to the herd. . . . It is made possible by the presence of unmolested wild places throughout our land."

"Wilderness Reflections on Mt. Frissell"

by Bishop Robert M. Hatch in

The Living Wilderness, (Summer-Fall, 1957)

NOTICE OF THE 1964 ANNUAL MEETING

We hope that all members who can will attend part or all of the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter which will be held as follows:

TIME: Saturday, November 7, 1964 at
11:00 AM

PLACE: Litchfield Nature Center and
Museum of the White Memorial Founda-
tion, Inc.

Directions: Entrance is located on
Rte 25 half-way between Bantam and
Litchfield. If approaching from
Litchfield, head West on Rte 25 to-
ward Bantam (about 2 miles); turn
left (South) at the Dutch Epicure
Shop and then turn immediately
right following the Foundation signs.

PROGRAM:

Business Meeting in the morning at
11:00 AM

Luncheon at 12:00 noon. Bring your
own box lunch. Hot coffee will
be provided.

Speaker: At 1:00 PM we will have the
pleasure of a talk given by Mr.
Horace Brown, Administrator of the
Conn. Interregional Development
Agency, who will discuss their pro-
gram and their recent book, Connec-
ticut Takes Stock for Action. A
discussion period will follow.

Field Trip: Upon completion of the
Business Meeting in the afternoon
visits are planned to the White
Memorial Natural Areas including
Catlin Woods, Bantam River and
others.

WALCOTT PRESERVES GROWS: New Acquisitions for Beckley Bog

Vital holdings are at long last being
rounded out at one of the finest northern-
type bogs in the State. At the Frederic C.
Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog) purchase of
an additional 230-acre tract and a gift of
a conservation easement covering 20 more
acres will bring up the total area now
being preserved to about 583 acres. These
latest acquisitions effecting 250 acres in-
clude the remainder of this black spruce
bog, more of the upstream portions of
Beckley Brook and surrounding upland forest
of hemlock, white pine and northern hard-
woods and a lovely mountainside to the
northwest of the Beckley Pond and Bog.
Significantly, this property is near por-
tions of the Algonquin State Forest on the
east and next to a large Girl Scout reser-
vation on the west.

Some eight years of effort have gone
into the acquisition of this Preserve.
The price of The Nature Conservancy pur-
chase was \$23,000. This was made partly
with funds held in the Walcott Preserve
account and the remainder with a loan of
\$18,000 from the special revolving fund
administered by the National organization.
NOW is the time the Project Committee
needs your help to round out the boundaries
of this exciting project.

Contributions are needed to repay
the loan from the National organization.
These are deductible as charitable gifts
on the Federal income tax and may be

(continued on page 2)



WALCOTT PRESERVE

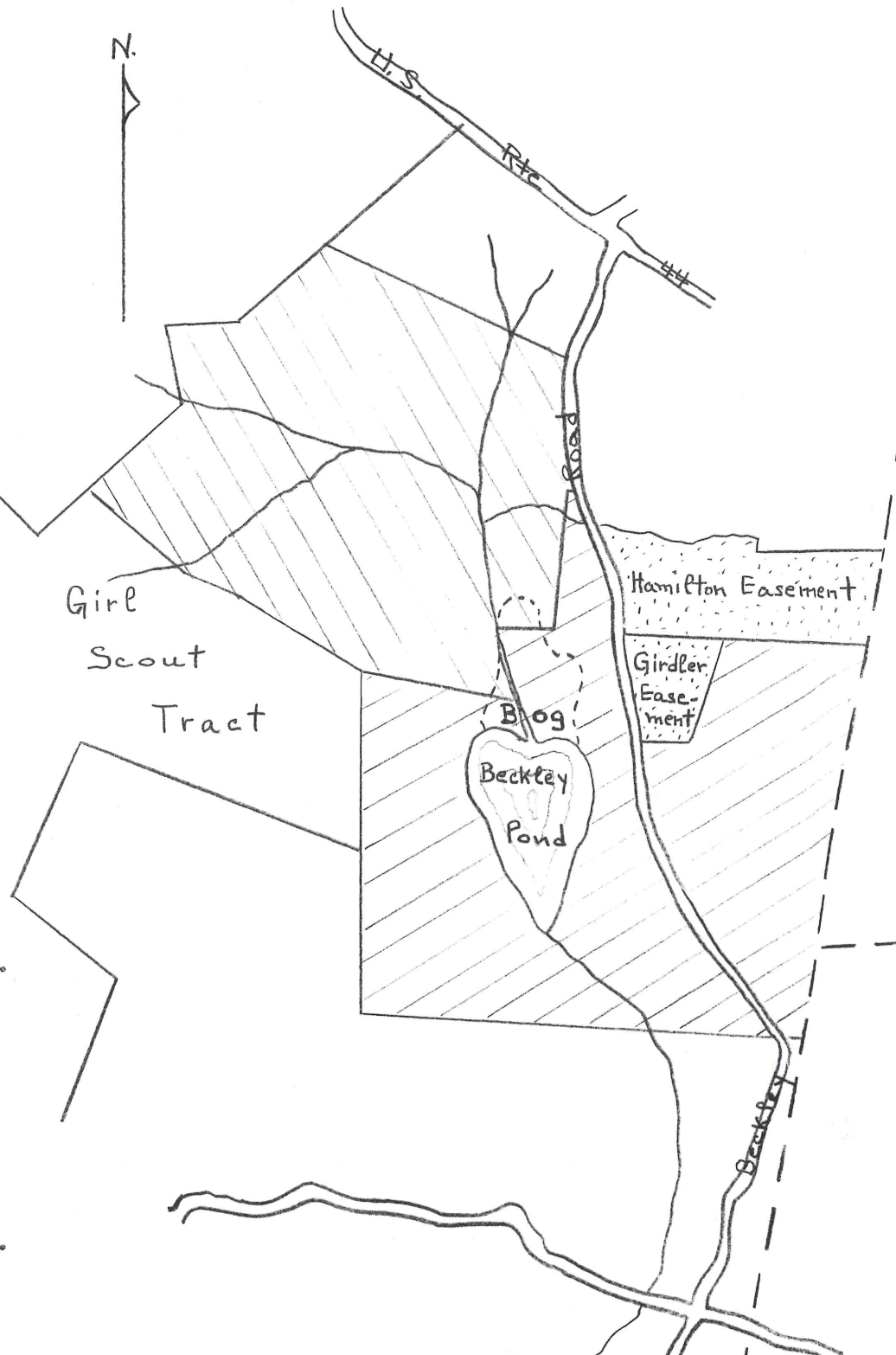
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sent to the Chairman of the Project, Mrs. John Hamilton, 9 Binney Lane, Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Checks should be made payable to The Nature Conservancy.

Action was begun on this project by Dr. Richard H. Goodwin in 1956 and the first purchase of 197 acres occurred July 1957; a second parcel was acquired in 1960. An additional 55 acres was acquired in 1962 by Mrs. John Hamilton (our current Chapter Chairman) who has given a conservation easement upon it to the Conservancy. Now The Nature Conservancy is acquiring from the Anstett family a 230-acre parcel and an additional 20-acre parcel is to be acquired by Mrs. Reynolds Girdler, of Riverside, Connecticut. She plans to give a similar conservation easement to the Conservancy on this parcel. The accompanying map shows the location of these parcels in relation to the bog heath.

Research projects on the Preserve are currently under way (see the article in the Chapter Newsletter of August 1964). A tremendous variety of flora abound. Recent vegetation changes and the role of animal populations in the ecology of the area are being studied. The members of this project group plan to have maps, photographs and other materials concerning these projects displayed for all to see at the Annual Meeting.

-  = Walcott Preserve as of 9/1/64
-  = Additional acquisitions in progress as of 9/30/64



A LONG LOOK AT A LONG RIVER

On October 1st, 1964, the Army Engineer Corps held a hearing in Berlin, Connecticut which was one of a series of hearings held concerning long range plans for the Connecticut River. Hearings had also been held in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Many voices were heard, including those of state and regional agencies, cities and towns, private and industrial groups and individuals. Various points were made concerning dams, flood control, flow levels, air and water pollution, dredging, navigation, recreation areas, hunting and fishing areas, protection of flood plains and tidal marshes, multiple water needs in the future. The belief expressed by many was that conservation and development of water resources was vital to the State; that comprehensive study is needed; and it was hoped that proper planning could harmonize many present conflicts of interest. Also stressed was the need for coordinating all studies and plans available: ones done by State and Regional Planning Agencies, by other Associations - and to have the comprehensive Department of Health, Education & Welfare Study done.

One interesting (and important) question kept recurring throughout the long afternoon. This concerned aesthetics and scenic values. The Corps were questioned by several as to how they would measure aesthetics in the standard generally used by them of a cost v. benefit ratio. The only reply was that they were becoming "more enlightened on these secondary or induced benefits" but as yet "had not assigned a dollar value to them", but will try to take them "into full accord."

As Mr. Julian Rosenberg (Conn. Valley Action Committee) state, "Let us not figure the cost of everything and end up with the value of nothing." He went on to point out that we are in the midst of a second industrial revolution which will convert the entire Northeastern seaboard to a giant megopolis.

Along with it is the increasing need for breathing spaces - sanctuaries of beauty (such as Central Park is to New York City or areas along the Rhine have been preserved in industrialized Europe.) Certainly industrialism has occurred in the central Connecticut region of the river, but let's try to prevent its creeping into the beautiful region of the lower Connecticut.

Again, perhaps we should be reminded (as we were at the beginning of the hearing) of part of the Whyte Report which points out about our magnificent river that, "At the moment, it is still relatively unspoiled. Many of the meadows along its shore have been dug away but the best remain, and the southern reaches of the river are as wild and open as they were a century ago. Most of the residential development that has taken place so far on these reaches is of a high order." "But tremendous pressures are building up." . . . "The choice must be made now." Places like the ox-bow meadows of Glastonbury and Wethersfield, the lovely narrows and ridge-lines further south, and near the coast, the tidal marshes - all are vitally important, aesthetically, scenically, as natural safety valves for flooding, as wildlife refuges, as tourist and recreational areas.

One other point was also commonly stressed by many. This was the need for further hearings and a chance for all those interested to be able to review any plans and/or programs drawn up by the Army Engineers. It was requested that a series of alternative programs be presented at public hearings before any one program became finalized.

It is important that we all keep track of this tremendous program now under way which will effect the heart of our State from the Massachusetts border to Long Island Sound. A resolution on this will be presented at the Annual Meeting to establish the Chapter position.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO EACH OTHER?

Environmental Hazards

The Nature Conservancy, in addition to its prime purpose of preserving land areas as habitats for plants and animals, has long been concerned about the effects man collectively is having upon his environment. Congressional hearings held in Washington, D.C. before Senator Ribicoff included testimony by Dr. Malcolm M. Hargraves, practicing physician and professor of medicine of the Mayo Foundation and with the Mayo Clinic since 1935.

Dr. Hargraves raised many fundamental and thought-provoking questions as to what man is doing to his own environment. He stated, "In the past 25 years the growing industrial giant has come to dominate us. One might say that petroleum and its associates, coal and natural gas, has become our wished for genie who could supply us with unknown and fabulous new products to fill our every wish."

"Clinically it is sufficient to say that essentially all of the cases of leukemia, lymphoma, aplastic anemia, thrombocytopenic purpura and other blood dyscrasias seem to give a significant history of exposure in time to these new environmental agents (...). The same may be said of certain cases of nephritis, nephrosis, hepatitis, neurological disease and vascular lesions. Some of these individuals improve or recover from their disease when removed from the environment. Others progress unrelentingly to finis. It is conservative to say that 50,000 individuals die of these yearly in the United States.

"Obviously, the amazing thing is that of the 170,000,000 of us who are occasionally exposed to the agents, the majority are evidently adapting and surviving. However, repeated exposures may eventually give rise to autoimmune disease in more of us, or the ever changing environmental agents may successively find unadapting victims."

And later "... American man is now undergoing a new and subtle struggle for survival. No longer is the outer man dramatically fighting the wild beasts

and rigors of a primitive environment, but the inner man is striving to adapt once more in its methodical way of detoxifying, producing immune bodies and new enzymes or altering the old, ever trying to preserve the 'recognition' or 'template' mechanism of its genes and chromosomes. I think that it is only reasonable to admit that American man is now engaged in a new phase of an unending struggle for survival, largely unmarked by dramatic exodus, but rather by inanition and death of individuals and potential families by failure of the inner man to adapt to the new environment. It is an interesting commentary upon man's adaptability in building an environment to which he may not adapt."

Copies of the hearings held in 1963 and just published, may be obtained from the U.S. Printing Office. (Four volumes - over 1,000 pages; total cost, \$3.10). The hearings were of the Senate Committee of Governmental Operations, Subcommittee on Reorganization and International Organizations, and are entitled "Interagency Coordination in Environmental Hazards (Pesticides)".

CONSERVATION AWARDS RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL

We are proud to have four of our Connecticut Chapter people selected as recipients for the first annual Conservation Awards given by The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Erard Matthiessen, a past member of the National Board, and Mrs. Allan A. Kitchel, Dr. William A. Niering and Attorney Richard M. Bowers, who have and do hold varying posts on our Chapter Board. All of these active people have received this citation for outstanding voluntary efforts for conservation. The awards were presented at the Annual National Conference in August in Illinois. Congratulations, all!

NORTH COVE - ATTEMPTS TO SAVE A SALT POND AND TIDAL MARSH

North Cove, in spite of prevailing efforts by commercial interests on the Congressional level, has not yet been fully resolved. Conservationists and concerned citizens are continuing their efforts in Old Saybrook. (See the article on North Cove in the Chapter Newsletter of May, 1964).

Ignoring opposition by all conservation organizations and violating the rule that local interests must contribute at least 50% of the cost of a recreation project, this Summer Congress included \$578,000 for dredging North Cove in the "Pork Barrel" Bill. Even the pleas of the Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game were brushed aside. Federal taxpayers will pay more than 85% of the cost of this essentially local project wanted only by a few in Old Saybrook.

Is this the way we want our representatives in Washington to spend our tax money? Should any dredging be done, it will be we who collectively will be paying for most of this project which many and probably most of us will not use and, in fact, oppose.

Dredging is still not certain as the Town of Old Saybrook must appropriate about \$50,000 itself. Many residents are opposed to the project and only a few even in Old Saybrook will benefit. In addition, the first \$50,000-cost to the Town is likely to be only a beginner of much larger sums that town taxpayers will be required to pay in the future for developing access areas and town facilities.

North Cove is state-owned land (not private land to be developed for the profit of a few). The State Board of Fisheries & Game continues to oppose this destruction of a shallow salt pond and the inevitable effects this will have on state holdings in Ragged Creek Marsh. The Water Resources Commission has not yet given a permit to dredge and may not do so in these state-owned tidal waters.

Our Chapter has by resolution registered its opposition and will continue

UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY SPRAYED INDISCRIMINATELY

The State Shade Tree Committee composed of representatives of the Utility Companies, the State Highway Department and state Conservation Groups, in 1960 drew up a state-wide set of specifications for selective herbicide spraying along right-of-ways.

Recently, as if to give a reminder that such matters require constant attention, a long swath of ugly brown-out occurred along Routes 201 and 95 from North Stonington to New London in Southeastern Connecticut.

Inspection of the area showed chemical plant killers (herbicides) were used indiscriminately, killing plants such as huckleberry, ferns, winterberry, witchhazel, chokeberry, shadbush, blueberry and various viburnums, none of which were interfering with the lines, and, if left, would tend to prevent the invasions of tree seedlings in the future.

In contrast undesirable trees were only half-sprayed and some completely missed in the poorly conducted spraying. In one place a young heifer became seriously ill after the spraying. Branches of a wild cherry hanging over into the pasture had been sprayed.

It would seem that additional effort will be necessary to control utility companies' indiscriminate spraying. The record here was that the company is either unable or unwilling to control its spray program adequately on a voluntary basis. Most of us do not want more governmental control and regulation of our society, but it is just such lack of private control which gives fuel to those who are willing to give greater powers to governmental control agencies.

(continued)
to do so whenever appropriate. Briefly, the resolution stated that preservation of marshlands and wetlands is one of our main objectives as they are vital and effective natural resources; that the project is not in the best interests of the citizens of the State; and that the Chapter does not endorse or approve the project.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION WORKSHOP

October 30th is the day for the Connecticut Education Association annual Teacher's Convention, and the Outdoor Education Workshop this year is under the sponsorship of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This interesting workshop is being offered to elementary teachers and will be held at the Clark Lane School in Waterford. (Similar programs have been held successfully other years in Glastonbury and Wethersfield.)

Our Chapter Committee, including Miss Barbara Brown, Mrs. Norman Newton and Mrs. John Kashanski, have been working with Mr. J. Morgan Miner, Elementary School Science Coordinator for Waterford and principal of the Cohanzie School (Waterford). They have set up an interesting program including an address by Dr. Stephen Collins, talking on how to use the outdoors as an educational tool; small group tours of a school Natural Area with the following leaders: Mr. Robert Kunz, Mr. Roy Kennan, Miss Bernice Wheeler, Mrs. Roy Taylor, and Mr. Miner; discussion periods; and a workshop on arts and crafts with natural materials.

Notices of this workshop have been sent to area elementary schools. Any teacher who is interested is invited. Registration can be done in advance by contacting either Miss Barbara Brown, 269 Chestnut Hill Road, Glastonbury, or Mr. Miner at the Cohanzie School, Waterford. It is expected that registration may be open at the door, also.

In sponsoring this program, the Chapter feels an important phase of conservation is being activated - that is, the giving of needed information and tools by which to acquaint teachers and students of the increasing importance of conservation in today's world.

SEE YOU ALL

AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING!

TRAILSIDE LECTURE SERIES

Members of the Chapter, especially those living in Southeastern Connecticut, may be interested in a lecture series being conducted by the Pequotsepos Wildlife Sanctuary on the 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month except December, running October 1964 through April 1965. Speakers include: Benton Owen, Alfred Hawkes, William Niering, Robert Kunz, Roland Clement, and the Louis Darlings. For a complete program and information write or contact Pequotsepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT YANKEE - THERMAL POLLUTION

Our Chapter's position was presented at the September 17th hearing before the State Water Resources Commission by Mrs. Norman B. Newton, one of our trustees. The Chapter resolution asked for no permit to allow thermal pollution because of the dangers to wildlife. No decision has to date been announced.

CONNECTICUT NATURAL AREAS REPORT

The response to this 33-page brochure giving information on Natural Areas that have been officially established as such in our State, has been good. (See the article on this in the Chapter Newsletter of August, 1964). We plan to have copies of this Report (50 cents each) available at the Annual Meeting for anyone who may be interested.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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